

**In the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule capable of specifically hybridizing under conditions of 6.0 X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by a wash of 2.0 X SSC at 50°C to a second nucleic acid molecule having a complete nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.
2. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a microsatellite sequence.
3. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a region having a single nucleotide polymorphism.
4. (Previously Presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a bacterial ORI site.
6. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a promoter or partial promoter region.

7. (Previously Presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 6, wherein said promoter region comprises a CAAT *cis* element and a TATA *cis* element and an additional *cis* element.

Claims 8-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule consists of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.

21. (Previously presented) A substantially purified first nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment nucleic acid sequence having from about 50 to about 100 nucleotide residues; wherein said fragment nucleic acid sequence exhibits complete complementarity to a second nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The substantially purified first nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said second nucleic acid molecule consists of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule having between 90% and 100% sequence identity with a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule has between 99% and 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.